

## Testimony of Ivy Arbaugh

### Against HB0359

Hello. My name is Ivy Arbaugh. Thank you for the opportunity to address everyone here.

I oppose HB0359 because it is bigoted and misguided legislation that will not only harm transgender and intersex youth, but also young cisgender women. Note: I will use the terms trans and cis.

Sports are an inherently social activity. When you ban trans girls from participating, you are saying that they are not real girls; that they cannot socialize with cis girls. This leads to the policing of gender and who gets to be a real girl. This bill is hostile towards trans people in broader society because it argues that trans people are not the real versions of their gender.

Such policing also harms young cis women because it could induce invasive tests or accusations. Women come in many different forms and varying genetics. Some women have more testosterone than others, be they trans or cis. There are women without ovaries. There are intersex women. There are women with disabilities. I could go on. Hostility towards trans and intersex youth distracts from the team experience, as well as the shared experiences of womanhood.

Those for this bill speak of cisgender women being deprived of athletic opportunities. As I said above, there is genetic variation among cis women. And outside of genetics, a woman athlete could have all sorts of other advantages over her peers: such as income, practice time, familial wealth to afford training, and much more. Instead, let us consider the opportunities that would be denied trans and intersex people. As I have written, trans and intersex youth would not only lose their chance to compete, but also be barred from social spaces and told they are not their gender.

This bill would do irrefutable harm against trans and intersex youth that are already struggling with so much more. Trans youth are often harassed in school and struggle to form friendships. This would make things even harder. Please oppose HB0359.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ivy Arbaugh